

LIFE  
AMONG THE  
BY MAJOR  
C. NEWELL  
LATE OF U.S.  
INDIAN AGENCY

STOCK  
INDIANS



N.Y. POPULAR PUB. CO.  
252 MERCER ST.  
NEW YORK.

Graff

The Newberry Library

The Everett D. Graff Collection  
of Western Americana

3009

LIFE AMONG  
THE  
SIOUX INDIANS.

BY  
MAJOR C. NEWELL,  
Late United States Indian Agent.

---

EXAMINE THE CONTENTS.

---

NEW YORK:  
NEW YORK POPULAR PUBLISHING CO.  
NO. 252 MERCER STREET.

A. J. DICK,  
E. J. H. STEIGER, } . . . . . Proprietors.

# CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE.
How Sitting Bull became a Chief.....	3
Sketch of Standing Elk's Life.....	4
"    Whirlwind Soldier's Life.....	5
"    Roaster, the Medicine Man.....	5
"    Walk about and Talk... ..	6
"    Use the Shield.....	6
"    Jumper.....	6
"    Little Black Eyes.....	7
How the Sioux Dress and Paint When they go to War....	7
How they Scalp the Dead.....	7
"    Catch Antelope.....	8
"    Catch Eagles.....	8
"    Cure Meat in Summer.....	8
"    Court and Marry.....	9
"    Get Divorces.....	9
"    Bury their Dead.....	10
"    Give Signals in time of war.....	10
"    Get names for Children.....	10
"    Tan Skins and Furs.....	11
"    Live in Winter.....	11
"    Tell how Old they are.....	11
"    Worship.....	12
The Custer Massacre.....	12



# LIFE AMONG THE SIOUX INDIANS.

---

## SITTING BULL.

The first time Sitting Bull came before the public as a chief, was at the time Young Crazy Horse was killed at the Ogalalah Agency. Up to that time, Crazy Horse had been chief of what was known as the Northern band of Sioux. This band came and camped near where Red Cloud and Spotted Tail were camped, for the purpose of signing the treaty of eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, and abide by the provisions of that treaty. While Young Crazy Horse was counselling with his tribe, getting them all to work in consort a half-breed Sioux, who had long held a grudge against Young Crazy Horse, resolved to get the young chief in trouble, if possible.

He told the officer commanding the troops stationed there, that Young Crazy Horse was getting ready to leave for the North, instead of coming in to sign the treaty. Black Crow and White Thunder were sent out to ask Crazy Horse to come in, that the officer wished to talk with him. He jumped

on a pony, and rode in with them. When he arrived at headquarters he was immediately taken to the guard house. When he saw the treachery of our officers, he resisted arrest without cause, and was run through with a bayonet in the hands of a soldier. Sitting Bull being next in command, took charge of the camp, and left for the North. Several times he asked that his people might come in under the same terms Spotted Tail and Red Cloud came in on, but has been refused. By keeping that party out of the treaty, it has been a handle that friends of the regular army have used every winter to get an increase of the army to fifty thousand men.

Sitting Bull is 55 years old, has three wives and one son, at Fehanville School. There is no truth in the story that he is half white or that he is educated. He is naturally a sharp, shrewd warrior, very proud and dignified. He is now quite anxious to have his people educated, and learn the ways of the white man.

#### STANDING ELK.

Standing Elk is now 70 years of age, 6 feet and 1 inch high. When a young man, was very powerful, weighing about 220 pounds. He was chief over a large tribe of his nation. His shirt is decorated with the scalps of twelve Indians, mostly Pawnees, that fell under his tomahawk during the Sioux war, which lasted fourteen years. Standing Elk took a very active part with his people. Our government employed from ten to fifty thousand soldiers out on

the plains, trying to drive these people from their homes. finally, in the year 1868, commissioners were sent out to make a treaty with the Sioux. Our Government promised to feed and clothe them for forty years, or until such time as they should become self-supporting. Standing Elk is trying to have his people learn the ways of the white people, and in time become self-supporting.

#### WHIRLWIND SOLDIER.

Whirlwind Soldier, the oldest son of the old chief Spotted Tail, and chief over a large band of Sioux warriors, is about 45 years old, 5 feet 9 inches high, powerful and very quick. His war shirt is ornamented with many scalps, mostly Pawnees and Crows. Whirlwind Soldier was with his father during the fourteen years of war with our government, was noted for his rapidity in riding into battle. The warriors said he went like the whirlwind—therefore the name "Whirlwind Soldier." He is naturally of a very kind disposition, ready to help a friend or kill an enemy; he never forgets a kindness or an injury; not much given to farming—would prefer to be a hunter and warrior. He has a son at Carlisle school being educated by the government.

#### ROASTER.

Roaster, the Medicine Man, is now about 65 years old, a large powerful man, weighing over 200 pounds, standing about 5 feet and 10 inches high. In his young days he was a great hunter and a prominent warrior. A large number of Indian scalps adorn his

war shirt. He became a medicine man some years ago. Since which time he has devoted himself to curing his people of their different kinds of sickness. During my stay with the tribe, I spent much time in making myself conversant with this method of curing disease. They have many ways unknown to white people. They actually cure many forms of disease entirely, without medicine of any kind, by using the hands and hot water. To explain here would require much space. Any one, either lady or gentlemen, desirous of learning the art—the writer will be glad to give instructions at any time, free of charge, as it is something that must be seen to be appreciated. Many ignorant people will set it aside as a humbug. The time will come when the world will understand and appreciate it.

#### WALK ABOUT AND TALK,

the wife of Standing Elk, is 35 years of age, weighs 260 pounds, and is very stout and healthy. The Sioux women do not allow the men or boys to do any kind of work, except hunting. Should the men attempt to work, the women laugh and call them squaws.

#### USE THE SHIELD,

the wife of Whirlwind Soldier, is 40 years of age, weighs 160 pounds, and is a true type of an Indian woman.

#### JUMPER,

grandson of Standing Elk, is 5 years old. A smart active boy, and a fair specimen of the Indian boys of



tribe. His father, Standing Elk's son, died two years ago. His mother is with her tribe out on the Plains.

#### LITTLE BLACK EYES,

daughter of Whirlwind Soldier, is 5 years of age. a very smart, active little girl. Both children will be placed in school and educated, as soon as old enough.

#### HOW THE SIOUX DRESS AND PAINT WHEN THEY GO TO WAR.

The only clothing worn by a Sioux warrior is the war bonnet, made of eagles' feathers, a cloth worn around the hips, the moccasins, and sometimes leggings. They usually paint their bodies black, with yellow stripes, unbraided their hair, tie up their horses' tails, and likewise paint their horses. Then, with a gun, or bows and arrows, they are ready to go and fight their enemies. The supplies and extra baggage are usually packed on extra ponies, and cared for by the wives of the men.

#### SCALPING THE DEAD.

The Sioux always braid upon their own heads, a small lock of hair about two inches across on the scalp, separate from the rest of their hair. That they call the scalp-lock. They expect that will be cut off by whoever kills them in battle. They keep it braided at all times, and ready to be taken off at a moment's notice. They expect their enemies will keep a scalp-lock braided on their heads ready for them to take off, whenever they shall kill them. If the enemy do not have the scalp lock braided for them, they are not brave soldiers, and are afraid to die.

### HOW THEY CATCH ANTELOPE.

When two or three Indians are out on a hunt, and see a herd of antelopes, they ride as close as they can unobserved, dismount, and hobble the ponies. Then creep up through the grass towards the herd, as close as they can, tie a red cloth on the end of a stick, wave that, and attract the attention of the antelope. Soon they will start off, going in a circular course around the flag, gradually coming closer, until they get up every close, when their hunters let fly their arrows, bringing some of them down.

### HOW THEY CATCH EAGLES.

Eagles are very hard to shoot, as they always fly very high. The Indians go to the top of some very high hill, near where they think there are eagle's nests. There they dig a hole in the ground, large enough for a man to get into. They cover it all over with pine boughs and brush, so the eagle cannot see that there is anything there but a pile of brush. The Indian then ties a live rabbit to the brush pile, over the hole. Soon some eagle flying over, spies the rabbit. He will circle around two or three times, and dive down and seize the rabbit with his talons. Then the Indian reaches up through the brush and grabs the eagle by the leg, and pulls him down into the hole. They often catch several eagles in one day; two large eagles are worth a horse with them. The tail feathers are worth one dollar each.

### HOW THEY CURE MEAT IN SUMMER.

The altitude where these people live, is about from

3 to 4 thousand feet above the sea. The air is so pure, that meat hung out in the hot sun will cure without spoiling. They seldom ever use any salt on their meat.

#### COURTING AND MARRIAGE.

When a young man sees a girl he wants to marry, he will manage to meet her out on the prairie, then throw his blanket over her head and talk to her. They will keep this up until the matter is settled. Then the young man will make some presents to the girl's mother—usually from one to ten horses, with some money or blankets—whatever he has. Then the relatives of the young couple will get together, and have a feast and dance, at which time the young man will make a speech and tell the people there assembled, that he takes this young woman as his wife for all time. Then he strikes the drum with a stick, which is the same as signing a contract. The young woman goes through the same performance which concludes the marriage ceremony, after which they feast and dance until morning.

#### DIVORCE.

Should the married couple be separated for some cause, and cannot live together pleasantly, the man or woman has a right to give the other a divorce. Should a woman go off and leave her husband, the next time there is a dance in the village, or a large gathering of the people, the young man will make a speech, and tell the people that his wife has gone off and left him, that he throws her away, and any one

can have her. Should the man go off, the wife does the same thing, likewise striking the drum, which cancels the contract.

#### BURYING THE DEAD.

The dead are usually wrapped up in buffalo skins, or blankets, and placed upon scaffolds, made by driving four stakes into the ground, and laying poles across the top of them, about seven feet from the ground. The air is so pure that no smell comes from the corpse. They gradually dry up so that nothing but bones remain. Children are often tied up in the branches of small trees away from wild animals.

#### HOW THEY SIGNAL IN TIME OF WAR.

Waving a blanket is the most common way. Certain motions of a blanket signify certain movements; almost the same as used by our signal service. In the night they use a fire-brand to convey their signals. Now that they can buy looking-glasses, they use them in the day-time when the sun shines. By flashing them in the sun, they can be seen for miles.

#### HOW THEY GET NAMES.

A Sioux Indian will not tell you his name: he will travel half a day to find some one to tell you. Should he speak his own name it would be a sure sign of bad luck. The names given to children they generally carry until they are young men; then by some act or deed, the name is usually changed. They often name after some kind of bear or eagle. The following are common names: War Eagle, Black Eagle,

Thunder Hawk, White Thunder, Red Shirt, Crow Dog, Red Dog, White Bear, Swift Bear, Turning Bear, Goose Arrow Sack, Yellow Breast, Mulehead, Skunk, Black Bull. The following names for women are quite common; they do not change their names when they marry. White Cow, Yellow Hair, Running Antelope, Spotted Elk, No Hair, Big Feet, Carry the Shield, Laughing Water, and many other of like nature.

#### HOW THEY TAN SKINS.

They usually use ashes and the brains of the animals killed, together with very much work with their hands, rubbing the leather until it is very soft.

#### HOW THEY LIVE IN WINTER.

They usually put their teepee up in some ravine where there is plenty of timber and water. They dig a hole in the ground, in the center of the teepee, about one foot deep, and a foot wide, which they usually keep filled with fire. This warms the tent and furnishes the fire for cooking over. Their beds are made of buffalo robes, blankets, and pine boughs or leaves gathered when dry. Their clothing was formerly made of buffalo skins in winter.

#### THE WAY THEY CALCULATE THEIR AGES.

When you ask an Indian how old he is, he will count up on his fingers. So many winters have passed since he was at a certain camp, so many more to some other camp, and at some other camp his mother said he was sixteen years old, the time he became a young man; they keep time by so many

winters, or from the winter that they fought the Pawnees or the Crows, or some particular event.

#### THEIR FORM OF WORSHIP.

The Sioux pray and sing to the Great Spirit, or God, as we call the Great Controlling Power of this Universe, with the same words in their prayers and songs as we have. The Medicine Men—or holy men, devote their time to healing the sick, and praying or singing with those in sickness and trouble. The Medicine Man is fed and clothed by his tribe. They are not expected to go to war or hunt. The cures performed by these men with their curious ways are very strange to white people, who are ignorant of many of the laws of nature. Those wild, uncivilized people can teach us many things in regard to nature's laws. In our ignorance, we are liable to condemn them. They say, "we can cure our people, and the white man can cure his."

#### THE CUSTER MASSACRE.

To give a full account of the massacre would require many pages. As our little book is limited, we will make it brief. When Gen. Custer learned that the Sioux were camped on the Little Big Horn river, he made a forced march of 84 miles, day and night, to attack their camp and kill them, before any of the others of Gen. Terry's command could come up. He made the attack in person with 200 men, leaving 400 in reserve under Major Reno. The Indians met and killed his entire party. The Indians lost about 46 killed, and about 160 wounded. Had Custer

obeyed orders, and waited until the command all came up, they could have forced the Indians to come in as prisoners, and thereby ended the Sioux war. But his haste to get all the glory of killing these people, led him to make the attack against the orders of his superior officers. These people do not like to speak of it in public, as they know many white people do not know the truth of the affair, and they are blamed as murderers, when the truth is, they only defended their women and children against the attack of the enemy. Custer found a camp of women and children on the Wichitaw Creek, some time before, where he murdered over 300 women and children, who had no one to defend them. For further reference, I refer you to the official accounts, published by the War Department.

C. NEWELL,  
Late United States Indian Agent.

**Lola Montez' SECRETS OF THE TOILET.**—

These recipes have been collated from those used by Lola Montez, and each one of them has not only been used by her, but carefully tested, in order that we may not present anything which can in any way injure the skin. It will supply a long-felt want.

**BALL-ROOM GUIDE AND CALL BOOK.**—A complete book on the art of dancing, together with necessary hints on ball-room etiquette, ladies toilet, gentleman's dress, etc., etc.

**PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR SKETCH BOOK.**—Consisting entirely of new sketches, cuts, pages, etc., written expressly for the profession and amateurs.

**BONAPARTE'S ORACULUM AND BOOK OF FATE.**—A true copy of the original edition (published at \$5.00), which was used by NAPOLEON. Persons of both sexes may refer to it to derive the most information for regulating their future conduct, according to its oracular counsels.

**MANUAL OF ETIQUETTE AND ART OF MAKING LOVE.**—A manual of love, courtship and marriage. Also a complete guide to the tender passion, from the commencement of love, courtship, until after marriage, together with duties to be fulfilled in regard to etiquette.

**DICK'S POLICY DREAM BOOK AND WHEEL OF FORTUNE.**—A complete interpreter of dreams, having attached to every dream its fortunate numbers; also a table of lucky numbers, combination tables, trial of destiny, interpretation of signs, omens, etc. A valuable book.

**BINGHAM'S SIMPLE METHOD OF VENTRILOQUISM.**—An efficient and easy mode of learning the art of ventriloquism, based upon the experience of a professional exhibitor. The book also contains amusing dialogues for beginners, etc.

**PAT ROONEY'S IRISH JOKER.**—Containing an excellent lot of Irish jokes, as given out at the leading variety shows. Scenes before the Footlights; Wild Wit of Irish Professors; Amusing Anecdotes, and host of funny sayings.

**CHAMPION SKATE BOOK.**—A complete amateur's guide, being a compendious hand-book designed for instruction. Compiled from the highest authorities, with original matter, instructive to both novice and expert. Copiously illustrated.

**CONJURING; OR, MAGIC MADE EASY.**—Containing an extensive collection of conjuring and legerdemain; sleight with cards, rings, handkerchiefs, etc., all which may be performed in the parlor. Illustrated and explained.

**GUS HILL'S CHAMPION CLUB-SWINGING MANUAL.**—A complete guide by which any one can learn this healthy exercise. By Gus. Hill, the champion club-swinging of the

**HARRIS & HART'S COMIQUE JOKER.**—Laugh and grow fat. An everlasting cornucopia of fun, jokes from high life, broad grins, comical conceits, witty sayings, etc. There will be found a hearty laugh in every line.

Copies of any of the above books sent postpaid on receipt of **TEN CENTS.** Address

**N. Y. Popular Publishing Co.**



**Mrs. Partington's Carpet-Bag of Fun.** A collection of over 1,000 of the most Comical Stories, Amusing Adventures, Side-Splitting Jokes, Cheek-extending Poetry, Funny Conundrums, Queer Sayings of Mrs. Partington, Heart-Rending Puns, Witty Repartees, etc. The whole illustrated by about 150 comic wood-cuts. 12mo, 300 pages, ornamented paper covers.....75 cts.

**Harp of a Thousand Strings; or, Laughter for a Life-time.** A book of nearly 400 pages; bound in a handsome gilt cover; crowded full of funny stories, besides being illustrated with over 200 comic engravings, by Darley, McLennan, Bellew, etc.....\$1.50

**Chips from Uncle Sam's Jack-Knife.** Illustrated with over 100 Comical Engravings, and comprising a collection of over 500 Laughable Stories, Funny Adventures, Comic Poetry, Queer Conundrums, Terrific Puns and Sentimental Sentences. Large octavo.....25 cts.

**Fox's Ethiopian Comicalities.** Containing Strange Sayings, Eccentric Doings, Burlesque Speeches, Laughable Drolleries and Funny Stories, as recited by the celebrated Ethiopian Comedian.....10 cts.

**Ned Turner's Circus Joke Book.** A collection of the best Jokes, Bon Mots, Repartees, Gems of Wit and Funny Sayings and Doings of the celebrated Equestrian Clown and Ethiopian Comedian, Ned Turner.....10 cts.

**Ned Turner's Black Jokes.** A collection of Funny Stories, Jokes and Conundrums, interspersed with Witty Sayings and Humorous Dialogues, as given by Ned Turner, the celebrated Ethiopian Delineator.....10 cts.

**Ned Turner's Clown Joke Book.** Containing the best Jokes and Gems of Wit, composed and delivered by the favorite Equestrian Clown, Ned Turner. Selected and arranged by G. E. G.....10 cts.

**Charley White's Joke Book.** Containing a full exposé of all the most laughable Jokes, Witticisms, etc., as told by the celebrated Ethiopian Comedian, Charles White.....10 cts.

**Black Wit and Darksy Conversations.** By Charles White. Containing a large collection of laughable Anecdotes, Jokes, Stories, Witticisms and Darksy Conversations.....10 cts.

**Yale College Scrapes; or, How the Boys Go It at New Haven.** This is a book of 114 pages, containing accounts of all the famous "Scrapes" and "Spree" of which students of Old Yale have been guilty for the last quarter of a century .....25 cts.

**Laughing Gas.** An Encyclopedia of Wit, Wisdom and Wind. By Sam Slick, Jr. Comically illustrated with 100 original and laughable Engravings, and nearly 500 side-extending Jokes.....30 cts.


**The Knapsack Full of Fun; or, 1,000 Rations of Laughter.** Illustrated with over 100 comical engravings, and containing Jokes and Funny Stories. By Doesticks and other witty writers. Large quarto.30 cts.

**The Comical Adventures of David Dufficks.** Illustrated with over one hundred Funny Engravings. This is a book full of fun. . . 25 cts.

**The Plate of Chowder.** A Dish for Funny Fellows. Appropriately illustrated with 100 comic engravings. 12mo, paper covers..25 cts.

# Jokes, Recitations, Stump Speeches, Sketch and Comic Books.

- 1 **H**ARRIGAN & HART'S NEW YORK BOYS' JOKER.
- 2 **H**ARRIGAN & HART'S COMIQUE JOKER.
- 3 **H**ARRIGAN & HART'S END MEN JOKER.
- 4 **P**AT ROONEY'S IRISH JOKER.
- 5 **P**ROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR SKETCH BOOK.
- 6 **D**UTCY, NEGRO, IRISH AND YANKEE SKETCH BOOK.
- 7 **R**ICHMOND & VON BOYLE'S EVER SO FAR AWAY RECITATIONIST.
- 8 **W**HIMSICAL WHITFIELD'S VOLUME OF FUN.
- 9 **A**DD RYMAN'S STUMP SPEECHES.
- 10 **P**UNCH AND JUDY, VENTRILOQUISM AND SONGS.
- 11 **B**ONNY BUSTER'S COMIC JOURNAL.
- 12 **B**ONNY LUSTER.
- 13 **N**EW BOOK OF CONUNDRUMS AND SPIRITED RIDDLES.
- 14 **S**AM DEVERE'S BANJO JOKER.
- 15 **C**LOWN'S JOKER.
- 16 **C**HIRSTY'S OLD-TIME ETHIOPIAN JOKER.
- 17 **H**UGHEY DOUGHERTY'S ORATORICAL STUMP SPEAKER.
- 18 **B**OYS AND GIRL'S RECITATIONIST.
- 19 **T**HEATRICAL JOKER.
- 20 **B**URN'T CORK JOKER.
- 21 **R**OUGH AND READY JESTER.
- 22 **R**IP RAP JESTER.

 Copies of any of the above books sent post paid on receipt of **TEN CENTS** each. Postage stamps taken. Address

**N. Y. Popular Publishing Co., 252 Mercer St., N. Y.**

